

Further Records of *Hyperoedesipus plumosus*.—Further to my note on the occurrence of this interesting Phreatoicid crustacean at Moondyne Spring in the Darling Ranges (*W.A. Nat.*, vol. 3, p. 173) additional observations may be recorded.

On September 7, 1952 I visited Moondyne Spring when the water level was low, with the spring just trickling. No *Hyperoedesipus* were found.

On January 25, 1953 the crustaceans were abundant and I collected about 30 individuals in some 20 minutes, using a stockinette strainer. All were subterranean. The day was clear and sunny. I also discovered *Hyperoedesipus* in the next watershed in a permanent spring there, about half-a-mile N.N.E. from Moondyne, but the creatures were sparse and I saw only four individuals altogether.

During a walk down the Avon Valley at Easter, 1953, our party visited the springs and at Moondyne *Hyperoedesipus* was abundant, and though the day was similar being clear and sunny, individuals were found both at the surface and subterranean. The former were pigmented, blue-brown. Pairs in copulation were discovered on this occasion and all these came from the mud at a depth of about 10 inches, right in the flow of the spring. No copulatory pairs were seen at the surface. In the copulatory embrace the larger female was coiled about the male and holding him with her legs. The specimens were collected on April 4 and held alive for the remainder of the trip in a test tube of spring water. They remained alive until April 7 when they were inadvertently exposed to direct sunlight, which was apparently a contributing factor in their death. The specimens were given to Mr. Keith Sheard, of the C.S.I.R.O.

—W. H. BUTLER, Museum Classes, Perth.

Records of Rare Parrots.—Because the Bourke Parrot (*Neophema bourkii*) is considered a rare species it may be of interest to record the following recent observations.

Accompanied by Messrs. K. G. Buller and N. E. Stewart, I recently (1953) visited the North-west via the Great Northern Highway. On May 23, approximately 50 Bourke Parrots were seen in several groups over an area of about a third of a mile square, 4 miles north-west of Nannine. A specimen (♂, testes small, W.A. Museum No. A 7159) from this locality was collected by Mr. Buller. On the same day, a single group of 6 birds was seen 73 miles northwards from Meekatharra. On the following day 2 further groups of 3 and 5 birds were seen at points 86 and 49 miles southwards from Mundiwindi, respectively.

On May 24 at a point 94 miles southwards from Mundiwindi I observed what I believe were a pair of Alexandra Parrots (*Polytelis alexandrae*). A pair of parrots flew directly overhead at a fairly low altitude and their elongated shape, long tail, swift non-undulating flight and characteristic wing-beat, and occasional soft call, left no doubt that they were of the genus *Polytelis*, a genus of which I have had considerable experience having studied both of the other species (*anthoepus* and *swainsonii*) in the field.

The general colour underneath appeared light grey and this together with the geographical location would rule out *P. anthopeplus*. The only other species with which this pair of birds might possibly be confused is the Weero (*Leptolophus hollandicus*) as this species has a similar flight and wing-beat and calls of the same general type as *Polylepis*. However, the birds seen in the Mundiwindi region were too large and the colour underneath far too light for *Leptolophus*.

—J. H. CALABY, Nedlands.

Further Record of the Little Whimbrel in South-western Australia.—On February 14, 1953, Mr. T. M. Smith of "Ardersier," West Coolup informed me that there were two birds in company with a flock of Banded Plovers on his farm. These birds had been seen a few times feeding with the plovers and he described them as being similar to a Curlew Sandpiper with a bill about 2 inches in length. However, from his description and the habitat in which they were seen I felt reasonably sure they were Little Whimbrels (*Numenius minutus*). These two birds disappeared the same day so I did not have an opportunity of seeing them.

On February 27, Mr. Smith informed me that one of the birds had arrived back and I went out to see it. It was a Little Whimbrel and was in company with a flock of Banded Plovers. Though not so quiet as the individual I saw in 1949 (*W.A. Nat.*, vol. 2, p. 24) it was easily recognised by the dark brown wing tips, length of beak, buff eyebrows and median line on head. It was in a dry pasture paddock which was matted with short couch grass which, owing to heavy rain during the first week of February, was still green. The bird did not crouch but owing to the shortness of grass it would have been useless as a means of hiding itself, and it was kept very much on the alert owing to the plovers' behaviour. Mr. Smith said the birds were more wary than usual, possibly due to my presence.

On March 3, Mr. Smith reported that there were two Whimbrels again with the plovers. One of these birds was darker on the neck and their feeding behaviour gave the impression they were catching grasshoppers or some similar insects. There is little doubt that these two birds were the same as seen originally on February 14. They disappeared about the end of the first week in March and have not been seen since.

It is interesting to note that these birds made their appearance under similar weather conditions to those obtaining in 1949. They were first seen during an abnormally cool spell about a week after heavy rain and disappeared finally after rain following a cyclone in March. Did the heavy rain in February set in train a natural cycle causing the birds to travel northwards towards their breeding grounds? Did the following dry weather cause a sudden interruption of the cycle, and so anchor the birds where they were temporarily, until the March cyclone caused its resumption?

—ANGUS ROBINSON, "Yanjettie," Coolup.